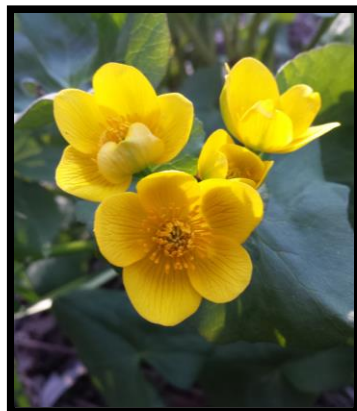




Legislative Updates

Positive strides in conservation are being made in our Hoosier state. Find more updates on **Page 2**

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Plant This Not That
Start or enhance your garden with native plants. Learn more on **Page 4**

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Volunteer Opportunities (p3)
Annual Meeting Review (p5)
New Executive Director (p6)

Indiana Wildlife Federation

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Common Sense Conservation since 1938

New and Positive Changes for IWF

Dear IWF Members, Friends, and Fellow Conservationists,

What a great year for IWF! I honestly believe that this past year will be remembered as the year of positive change that will result in a new life for our organization. Many exciting things have happened including the addition of two new board members, Jim Wagoner and Stacy Cachules (pg. 5). Erin Baird has been selected as our new Executive Director (pg. 6), and Barbara Simpson will continue to support our advocacy work as the Conservation Policy Director. IWF led another successful effort to defeat HB 1425 (Canned Deer Hunting) in the State Legislature (pg. 2). We have experienced great success with all of our programs including certification of Indiana State University and Butler University in the Landscaping the Sustainable Campus program (pg. 6). And we have reached a new milestones in membership and fundraising including an anonymous, unrestricted gift of \$20,000!

But, I feel that one of the most significant accomplishments is our development and adoption of a new strategic plan. Over the past few months, the IWF Board and staff have met in six special board meetings to chart a new course. With the facilitating assistance of nonprofit consultant Michael Shermis, we have outlined a plan which we feel will take the organization to a new level of excellence and growth.

One of the key aspects of this new plan is the restructuring of our committees. Led by a board member, each of the four committees below will meet monthly and report to the full board. This will allow the committees to do the "work" and allow the board to concentrate on growth, education and community involvement. Outlined below are the four committees:

Governance – Steve Cecil, Chair

The Governance Committee provides the structure for the organization. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, staff oversight and evaluations, training, updating and revising policies and procedures (by-laws and corporate organization).

Finance – Jim Wagoner, Chair

This committee is charged with creating a stable, transparent, sustainable, and fiscally accountable organization.

Development – Steve Mueller, Chair

The Development Committee is "where the rubber meets the road." It will be responsible for a development plan that will insure long-term sustainability utilizing diverse funding streams.

Programs – Chuck Brinkman, Chair

The Program Committee is responsible for the work IWF accomplishes through the programs such as Landscaping the Sustainable Campus or "What's in your Wild Backyard?". It will maintain the internships and volunteer programs. Also included in the Program Committee will be the development and implementation of the IWF public policy in wildlife management.

Our intention is to grow IWF into an even stronger, more effective organization with new volunteering responsibilities. The new committee structure with its strong leadership is poised to increase funding and membership, create new and exciting educational opportunities and lead the state in resource policy.

I am very excited with our new structure and I hope, as IWF members, you seriously consider getting involved. If a committee lead contacts you, please join in by helping with special projects, recruiting new members, manning special events or just spreading the word about the good things happening at IWF.

Yours in conservation,

IWF Board President Steve Cecil

Hoosier Conservation

May 29, 2015



NWF Names Indy as a Top 10 Wildlife City

The National Wildlife Federation announced on March 9 that Indianapolis is ranked eighth nationally on the list of top ten cities for wildlife. The NWF ranks the largest cities in the nation based on three important criteria for wildlife—percentage of parkland in each city, citizen action to create wildlife habitat, and school adoption of outdoor learning in wildlife gardens.

In a letter to Mayor Greg Ballard, NWF President and CEO Colin O'Mara said, "It's no surprise that Indianapolis made the top ten. With more than 900 NWF Certified Wildlife Habitats (including 51 Schoolyard Habitats), innovative habitat programming from the Indiana Wildlife Federation (our state affiliate) and great city programs to support rain garden and use of native plants, we know that the City of Indianapolis and its citizens are doing amazing things for wildlife."

Indianapolis was the only city in the Midwest to be ranked in the top ten. Erin Baird, Executive Director for IWF is extremely pleased with the hard work of Hoosier conservationists.

"From spotting a Cooper's hawk hunting over our downtown office building to spying bunnies and white-tailed deer in a backyard, the people and wildlife of Indianapolis are often interacting," said Baird. "It's wonderful to see Indianapolis as a leader in certified wildlife habitats, with people recognizing and embracing that every backyard makes a difference for our wildlife, birds and pollinators."

Legislative Update

Canned Hunting: On April 14, the Indiana Wildlife Federation celebrated a huge victory for wildlife as the canned hunting bill, [HB1453](#) was defeated in the Indiana Senate by a vote of 27-23. This was a huge win. The original bill passed the House 55-39.

There are still four canned hunting operations in business under a court injunction, and there will probably be other attempts to legalize it. However, those opposed to the bill are now in a stronger position, and the legislature is better educated on the issue.

This could not have occurred without the calls, emails, letters, and face-to-face meetings with senators from individuals and groups. The grassroots hunters and other conservationists made their voices heard! The canned hunting issue is still in the courts, and will head next to the Indiana Supreme court. Follow the IWF social media and website for continued updates.

For information visit the [IWF issues](#) tab on our website.

Constitutional right to hunt and fish: Senate Joint Resolution 2, passed the second hurdle to becoming an amendment to the Indiana State Constitution by passing this year's General Assembly. It's now headed to Hoosier voters in a State Referendum on the 2016 ballot. Hunters and anglers certainly support individual rights to hunt and fish, but this particular resolution has raised several questions. Some fear it's a disguised way to legalize canned hunting; others question whether it will restrict the management of nongame species, or disallow use of non-hunting methods to manage wildlife in certain circumstances. Others have expressed concern about personal property rights related to hunting access. This will be a very important bill to follow.

State Budget: One issue that needs examination is the State Budget, [HB1001](#). Funding for natural resources once again was woefully lacking, comprising less than 1%. The ongoing decline in quality habitat for wildlife, public access to natural spaces, and degrading public facilities must be halted. While the State does need to operate within its means and all agency budgets are tight, it's an ongoing concern that natural resources are being disproportionately penalized. Even repeated requests to allow increased user fees for hunting and fishing have not been allowed. Recent approval of state park and forest user fees was a help, but much more needs to be done.

Hoosier Conservation

May 29, 2015

Volunteers Needed!!

- **August 8—A Taste of the Wild Cookout** at the Indiana State Fair. Volunteers needed from 10:30 am to 1 pm to help us serve up venison sloppy joes, water, and lemonade.
- **September 19—Hoosier Outdoor Experience** at Fort Harrison State Park. We need many volunteers to help us build bird feeders with kids, families, and individuals as well as organize supplies and materials, and talk with the public about IWF programs.

If you are able to help with these events the IWF greatly appreciates your time. To volunteer please email info@indianawildlife.org or call 317-875-9453(WILD)

Upcoming Field Trips

- **July 10—Eagle Marsh** --- We are making a return trip to Eagle Marsh near Fort Wayne this summer. We will see the progress being made on the construction of the berm meant to prevent Asian Carp moving into the Great Lakes Basin. Start time is 10 am.
- **August 6—Mounds State Park** ---The park naturalist will lead a hike to see the area that could be impacted by the potential reservoir. The area highlighted will be the fen and unique plants and animals found there. Start time is 10 am.
- **October 2—HEE tour at Morgan Monroe** --- This is a great opportunity to hear more about the Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment at Morgan-Monroe State Forest. Learn about ongoing projects such as small mammal trappings, bird surveys, and vegetation inventories. Start time is 10 am.

*RSVP by email info@indianawildlife.org
By phone: 317-875-9453(WILD)*

Calendar Updates

- **June 13**—National Get Outdoors Day
- **June 15-21**—Pollinator Week
- **June 27**—Great American Backyard Campout
- **June 27**—Backyard Habitat Workshop at Holliday Park
- **September 11**—Fall Conservation Conference

Earth Day Indiana Festival



This year for the Earth Day Indiana Festival IWF volunteers helped folks build 92 bird feeders! Thanks so much to all of our volunteers for their help, and thanks to all the families who braved the bad weather to learn and build with us.

IWF's New Doxtater Interns

IWF is happy to have two new interns—Lucas and Scott—in the office for the summer.

(Communication) Scott Mitchell received a BS in Communication from the University of Indianapolis this May and will go back to school this fall to get a MBA at UIndy. He hopes to use this opportunity to work with other staff in furthering the mission of IWF, especially in its vision to get more youths outdoors.

(Habitat) Lucas Carlson is a senior at Purdue University studying Political Science with a minor Natural Resources and Environmental Science. He aims to increase the amount of universities participating in our LSC program and expand certification programs to public trails and corporate campuses. Lucas plans to incorporate his love of the natural environment with his political studies in order to influence future environmental policies.

Hoosier Conservation

May 29, 2015

Plant This Not That

Native



©2002 Gary Fewless

Photo by Gary Fewless, University of Wisconsin – Green Bay

Common Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*) is a native shrub that does well in moist soil but can also tolerate dryer conditions. It can form thickets to provide privacy, and it also produces white flowers with purple berries in late summer. These berries provide a valuable food resource for birds without sacrificing ecological health.

Exotic Invasive



Photo by The Nature Conservancy

Autumn Olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*) is a shrub introduced from Asia mainly for erosion control. It blooms white flowers in the spring and then produces bright red berries which are highly attractive to birds. Birds quickly spread its seed across the landscape. Autumn Olive shades out native understory plants and prevents native seed from sprouting. This shrub produces many seeds and without a natural pest or disease to keep it in check its germination rate is much greater than that of a native shrub.

Kids' Corner

Try to find all of these animals below!

| | | | |
|----------|----------|--------|-----------|
| Badger | Bass | Beaver | Butterfly |
| Cardinal | Deer | Eagle | Fox |
| Goose | Otter | Owl | Rabbit |
| Raccoon | Squirrel | Trout | Turkey |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| d | o | r | a | c | j | e | v | t | e | t | s | e | s | a | i |
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Great job. Now, try to find these animals outside!



Native Plant Sale



There is still time to order native kits through the IWF native plant sale! These beautiful plants look amazing and are already adapted to Indiana's unique climate. For details, check out the Native Plants tab in the Wildlife section of our website.

Hoosier Conservation

May 29, 2015

Spring Conservation Conference & Annual Meeting

The 2015 Conservation Conference & Annual Meeting was a great success for the organization. Three engaging speakers presented on important conservation topics: restoration work at Goose Pond Fish & Wildlife Area, feral pig population management, and habitat development for monarch butterflies. Awards were presented to individuals and organizations honoring their efforts to support natural resources in the state. They were:

President's Award

Jon Laramore Brent Taylor Stephanie Boxell
Sarah Sharp Faegre Baker Daniels LLP



Presentation of award to Faegre Baker Daniels

Paul Bunner Conservationist of the Year: *David Craig*

Conservation Organization of the Year:

Clay Township Regional Waste District

Conservation Education Award:

Purdue University – West Lafayette

Wildlife Conservationists of the Year:

Suzie Ronk and Emma Brinson

Conservation Affiliate of the Year:

Indiana Catfish Conservation Association



Barb Simpson presents to attendees of the annual meeting

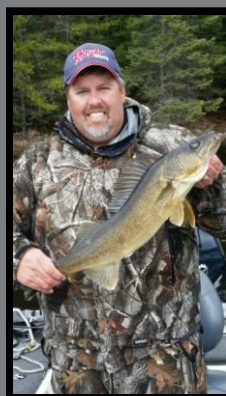
Find conservation awards details on the [Conservation Awards](#) page of our website.

Meet our 2 Newest Board Members



Stacy Cachules: is the Operations Director with the Central Indiana Land Trust (CILTI). Stacy has 12 years of experience working at nonprofit conservation and environmental organizations including starting her career at the NWF in Washington D.C. She has a B.S. in Public Affairs from Indiana University. Before joining CILTI, Stacy and her husband lived in

Seattle where she worked at the Cascade Land Conservancy, managing their robust volunteer program. Stacy is originally from Indiana and is happy to be back home helping protect the special landscapes of her home state. When she isn't at work she spends her time chasing her two young sons. Stacy enjoys being outside and loves to travel.



Jim Wagoner: is a Partner and Director of Tax Services with Greenwalt CPAs, Inc. in Indianapolis. He advises his clients how to minimize their tax exposure so they can put more of their hard earned money in their pocket. He received both his BS and MA degrees from Manchester University. Growing up in rural Rochester, Indiana, Jim learned the value of hard work and

opportunities our natural resources provide. Jim is an avid outdoorsman and his favorite place to catch up on rest and relaxation is Ontario, Canada (with a fishing pole in his hand, of course). He enjoys most outdoor activities but mostly enjoys teaching his 3 sons about hunting, fishing and conservation.

Holt Scholarship

Don't forget that any student above freshman ranking in a field related to resource conservation or environmental education can apply for the Holt Scholarship. This IWF endowment awards \$1000 in memory of Charles Holt, a lifelong member and champion of fish and wildlife resources.

Applications are accepted until June 15.

Hoosier Conservation

May 29, 2015



IWF officially recognized Butler for their December certification
Photo by Sarah Evans, Williams Creek Consulting

Butler University Certification

Butler University was the second university in the state to achieve Gold Level certification through the Landscaping the Sustainable Campus Program. Just a few of Butler's sustainable campus practices include:

- invasive exotic plant removal
- multiple new rain gardens which feature native plantings and help manage storm water runoff
- pervious pavement in parking lots and walkways
- smart sprinkler systems
- Sunset Avenue Streetscape project which will include a pervious pavement bike lane



IWF presents ISU's President Bradley with certification

Indiana State University Certification

IWF attended Indiana State University's Earth Day event to present their Gold Level certification. ISU's Sustainable Landscape Plan highlights wonderful practices such as:

- Installation of rain gardens and bioswales
- drastic reduction in overall chemical usage
- use of pervious pavement
- incorporating education about sustainable landscape practices into course curriculum
- the installation of beautiful native landscapes

New Executive Director, Erin Baird

Greetings IWF Members, Friends and Fellow Conservationists,

What an honor to be the new Executive Director of the Indiana Wildlife Federation! I follow in the footsteps of many great leaders, and I am eager and excited to continue the incredible work that the organization has been known for in its 75+ year history.

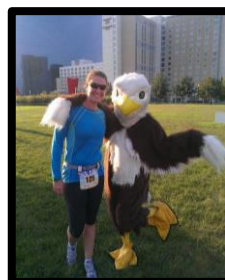
The IWF has had several big *Wildlife Wins* recently thanks to the four years of dedication and guidance from previous Executive Director, Barbara Simpson. We have exciting momentum in our Landscaping the Sustainable Campus Program, we are connecting and having an impact in more backyards than ever before, we have a strong, established internship program and once again, we are celebrating success in defeating canned hunting legislation in this year's legislative session. Many of our recent accolades are highlighted in this issue of our Hoosier Conservation newsletter, and I also encourage you to follow our updates on our website, email, and social media.

I have many goals as I enter this new role, but most importantly, I hope to:

- continue our capacity building activities and the implementation of our strategic plan with an end goal of increased financial sustainability as an organization
- continue our work on the education and advocacy pieces of our mission
- encourage people to do what they can for wildlife in their own backyards
- work with colleges and universities to improve and incorporate more sustainable landscaping practices on campus
- connect children and young people to nature
- advocate for common sense conservation in the legislature
- engage college student conservationists

I am excited about the future of IWF and conservation in Indiana. I look forward to connecting with each of you in the near future and invite you to contact me if you would like to discuss IWF priorities.

Please check out our upcoming field trips and volunteer opportunities, and I hope to see you at our fall Conservation Conference on September 11!



Best,

Executive Director Erin Baird